PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

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LECTURE XXV.

THE RIDDLE OF RUSSIA.

RUSSIA whether under the Czarist regime or the Bolshevik regime, has always been a riddle. She is remote and inaccessible. Her vast Siberian territory is a sealed book. Ethnologically she combines east and west; territorially she is the largest of the Powers; she has a new experiment in Government and Society; and she has to rule her, a man who is as much a riddle as herself, Joseph Stalin of Georgia.

When discussing a riddle, we may be excused for beginning with a series of questions.

Having unexpectedly crumbled to pieces in the last war, how did RUSSIA stand twenty years later when war again was on the tapis? When a mighty effort for peace was made during the momentous weeks preceding the active outbreak, the world talked of RUSSIA as the giant whose alliance must weight the scales for war or for peace. Was it then the stability of her organisation or the principles of her foreign policy that made the world so expectant of RUSSIA, or was it the might of her army, the spirit of the red soldier, and the military genius of their leader—Voroshilov?

There were many who were confident that RUSSIA would prefer peace. Why did they think so?

21194:19(Cyn) N41-25 36

Does RUSSIA want a world peace at all? What would then become of the famous Communist International, the dream of Lenin, the heart's longing of the revolutionary in every nation, the political theory that demands the forcible ousting of the bourgeoisie in every nation, a world conflagration to destroy established society and inaugurate the new order of Karl Marx?

1823

Was this the reason why RUSSIA was omitted from the Four Power Meeting after MUNICH, or were there others, and if so, what?

The answer to these questions lies in the proper understanding of RUSSIA's constitution, ideology, its gradual transformation and the internal repurcussions of the new order.

We hope to show that RUSSIA is neither an insoluble riddle, nor an inert mass but that she has not yet emerged out of her first stage of economic, and political adolescence, and that having severed all links with the past, she has not yet been able to prove the success of the World-Bolshevism.

If RUSSIA appears a riddle to-day Joseph Stalin may be the explanation. Stalin means steel. This was his underground name given to him by his friends in the revolutionary days. His real name in the village of GORI near TIFLIS in GEORGIA is Yoesif Visarionovich Dzugashville. His early life was spent in that village among the Caucasian mountains. His father was a cobbler. He was taught in the parish seminary at TIFLIS. There he read plenty of Byzantine books, and swallowed plenty of Marxist stuff, and like the majority of young boys of the day in RUSSIA he longed for the revolution. From his boyhood he was remarkable for his boldness, power of endurance, tenacity of purpose and freedom in thinking. With a band of young hooligans he used to roam among the mountains and catch horses, no gentle game for a youngster. Joining the TIFLIS Social Democratic Party, he soon became its head and there dreamed of heading a revolution in RUSSIA, an ambitious enough destiny for a village boy in a remote corner of that huge country. He heard of Lenin, returning from SIBERIA to SWITZERLAND with his dream of revolution, and from that moment, Lenin became his God, and the Young Dzugashville began to scan the smudgy pages of Lenin's "Iskra" (spark) as though it were a new gospel. The revolutionary activities of the young Georgian son caught the attention of the Government. He was thrown into prison several times, but

every time escaped. When in 1905 the Czar quelled the Tartar-Armenian riots in BAKU and the rebel tribes of the Caucausus, Stalin retired in disgust to TAMERFORS in FINLAND when his own partymen submitted to the orders of the Government. He was always a silent man, believing more in action than in words. With great powers of endurance, strong physique, enormous patience, concentration, shrewdness and cunning, here was an oriental equipped to embark upon a revolution in a semi-European country. But he had to work underground. He had to create little Bolshevik "cells" all over RUSSIA, while his God, Lenin, was formulating the Soviet philosophy. Stalin hated conferences and compromise and when, after the March revolution, Lenin and the other Soviet leaders had to flee to FINLAND, Stalin had the boldness to remain in RUSSIA and to carry on the work of revolutionary organisation and consolidation. Later, hearing that there was going to be a conference of the Revolutionaries in TAMERFORS, he walked all the way to that distant place, and summoned all his colleagues to action—direct action and war! The Mensheviks among them insisted on the slow and subtle achievement of revolution. Such were Trotsky, Zinoviev and Kamenev. Led by the brilliant speaker, Trotsky, they made a deep impression on the revolutionaries assembled there, but the Georgian cobbler made such a speech at the end that he was able to convince the majority. Yet when, after the TAMERFORS conference, all the communists scattered to their hiding places in foreign countries, Stalin alone returned to RUSSIA.

The vast organisation that was being evolved, with Lenin at its head, naturally required money, and it was to Stalin that Lenin looked for funds. Resolved to get the money by hook or crook, because his God wanted it, Stalin descended to terrorist robbery and managed to supply Lenin with large sums.

Between 1907 and 1917 Stalin was a lonely man working silently but energetically. While the more able of his colleagues were languishing in Siberian jails, or writing pamphlets in Geneva, Stalin studied revolutionary papers, and worked steadily underground, gaining valuable experience in self control and endurance. He learned to live on very low diet; when arrested was kicked and buffeted in vain by police and soldiers. Because he had become notorious as a person who could escape from any kind of captivity, he was once forced to run between two long lines of soldiers from the Salyanski regiment, each of whom beat him on the

head with his rifle butt as he passed—but Stalin lived, where anybody else would have died. Till 1913 even his party-men ignored him. In 1913, he was hustled off to distant SIBERIA by the police, this time not to return till the confusion of the revolution, in March 1917, enabled him to escape.

When he came to ST. PETERSBURG, he found Kerensky holding the field with his tempestuous speeches. Among the hundreds of political exiles who had returned to the capital he was hardly noted. He merely waited till Lenin returned to the capital, and then, with unshaken faith and unquestioning loyalty, obeyed him.

The method of revolution agreed to by the Bolsheviks was to stir up revolt among the masses. While Kerensky and Kornilov struggled for power, Lenin had to flee to FINLAND, with Zinoviev, but when Kerensky fled and General Kornilov's advance on PETROGRAD proved a failure in October 1917, the stage became clear. The first Central Committee of the party, afterwards called the Politburo, was formed and consisted of Lenin, Stalin, Trotsky, Kamenev, Zinoviev, Sokolnikov and Bubnov—"a mixed bag of Bolsheviks and Mensheviks who simply could not agree from the start." Trotsky used to insult Stalin openly. Always at a disadvantage in debate, Stalin would keep silence but in his mental dossier Stalin must have made many a black mark against Trotsky, and the world now knows the result thereof. When Stalin was given by Lenin the minor posts of Commissar for Nationalities and Inspector-General of Fields and Factories, Trotsky probably felt triumphantly relieved, but Stalin blinked, smiled and bowed to his God, Lenin, and said "I shall do the jobs however dirty they be." In that new job Stalin had to bring together under the Soviet Union about a hundred nationalities and races, recast agricultural holdings and plan out industrial factories; and with his gift of thoroughness, realised, in so doing, the real secret of power in Bolshevik RUSSIA. He keeps that power up to date. With his usual ruthlessness, silence and thoroughness, he carried out his work. While in the capital the other leaders were discussing and plotting as to who should become the successor of Lenin, Stalin went about all over RUSSIA suppressing revolts in TSARITSIN, on the Volga, or in the Kirghi Steppes. Wherever he went he was able to subdue revolt and introduce measures of reconstruction.

Through all these years of toil, General Voroshilov was by his side. It was while he was in TSARITSIN with the red army under Voroshilov that he began a thorough overhauling of its officers. Drastic

changes in personnel and arrest of obstructive officers, made Trotsky, the commander in chief of the army, furious. He wired to Stalin to set the army officers at liberty. Stalin opened the message and wrote on the back of it "No attention need be paid to this." He knew that the star of Trotsky was setting, and that his own was rising.

By 1921 Lenin, the first member of the Politburo, failed in health, and was in obvious need of a General Secretary to take full control of affairs. Surrounded by Trotsky and his friends, who had won over to their side Krupskaya, Lenin's wife, Lenin wavered. Stalin returned from Caucasus and demanded to be appointed Secretary. Lenin agreed without demur. And it is curious to note that to this day he is still the "General Secretary" that he was under Lenin. Trotsky affected to ignore the action; he did not care for this "minor post;" he felt himself the only man big enough to succeed the mighty Lenin.

Somewhat alarmed at the firmness and thoroughness with which Stalin controlled affairs of State, Lenin wrote a memorandum to the party members suggesting that Stalin "had concentrated in his hands enormous powers." He added, "I am not sure that he knows how to use the power; He is too rough........He becomes insupportable in the office of the Secretary and I propose to the comrades to find a way to remove Stalin." He was too ill, however to carry out his intention. Even when, at his bedside, Trotsky contemptuously refused Stalin's offer of friendship and support, Lenin had to accept the latter's point of view. Trotsky was insistent on a world revolution; Stalin preferred to perfect revolution in Russia first, and convinced his leader that the majority was with him. When Lenin died it was Stalin who made Leninism a religion. He had Lenin's corpse embalmed and installed in the Kremlin, and has since been able to subdue all opposition by characterising it as anti-Leninistic. He exiled and deported Trotsky, and has to this day, called himself not Dictator, but still General Secretary!

At last supreme, Stalin now turned to internal reconstruction. The masses were starving. The Cossacks and the Kulaks (large land-holders) were in rebellion. Lenin's favourite New Economic Policy looked like enriching the few and impoverishing the many. His law of free love was proving a failure. [Mines and factories were in confusion. Methods of cultivation were primitive. The railways had broken down. To correct all these Stalin introduced his first Five Year Plan. He mechanised agriculture. He collectivised all farms. Kaganovitch was entrusted with the organisation

of the Railways. All banks were nationalised and he created the famous "Imtourist", or Tourist Bureau. He gathered round him men he could trust, Voroshilov, Molotov, Kaganovitch and Radek. He turned his eyes to his Eastern Empire—grew cotton in TURKESTAN and from it manufactured fabrics which were sold in CHINA. He grew wheat and stored it in the huge granaries in NOVORISSISK. The story goes that when Hitler wanted wheat Stalin sold him a million bushels. How many bushels were weeviled, Hitler and Stalin alone knew! By 1936 two Five Year Plans had been mainly successful, and Stalin estimated that twenty years more of peace would make RUSSIA the biggest power in EUROPE. Splendid isolation—and he meant to have it!

In 1936 a new constitution was introduced in RUSSIA with a bicameral legislature, but Stalin was still the master. He had concluded trade pacts with several capitalistic nations and when TURKESTAN cotton and fabrics were displacing the LANCASHIRE products in the FAR-EAST, he concluded a trade pact with BRITAIN! He entered into non-aggression pacts with FINLAND, FRANCE, CHINA, PERSIA, CZECHOSLOVOKIA, AFGHANISTAN, etc. There had already been mutual assistance pacts with FRANCE and with CZECHOSLOVOKIA in 1935.

A curious omission in this list of Stalin's diplomatic ventures is GERMANY. What would Lenin have done? Ought he, Stalin, to make a pact with Hitler? Surely White Russians and the Ukranians must long to be taken back into the Soviet Union. Unfortunately they were largely in POLAND, and now GERMANY was casting covetous eyes on POLAND. The Nazi-ridden International City of Danzig, too, was being instigated into a demand to be taken into the Third Reich. Perhaps, if GERMANY's demands embroiled her in a war with BRITAIN and FRANCE, he might find an opportunity to snatch the White Russians and the Ukraine out of the mess!

Thinking somewhat thus, ENGLAND also must have loomed large in Stalin's mind. "This ENGLAND is a riddle. She has her unemployment, her slums and her poverty, yet the worker and the peasant do not revolt. And what is her foreign policy with regard to us and our political theory? I can't see that English Labour Members make very suitable stuff for revolution! They capitulate to law and order, they seem drugged by that peculiar English sedative constitutionalism. Keep an eye on ENGLAND!"

When in the spring of 1938, the Fuehrer marched into AUSTRIA, Stalin suggested a conference to prevent aggression. Was he sincere or did he want to create an occasion for rebuff? Anyway, the Allies turned him down. When Hitler marched on CZECHOSLOVOKIA, Stalin was perfectly aware of the unprepardness of ENGLAND, and FRANCE, for war. He therefore vociferously declared that he would abide by the mutual assistance pact of 1935. When FRANCE and ENGLAND refused to abide by the 1935 pact Stalin ostentatiously offered military assistanae to the Czechs provided they rejected the ultimatum presented by the British. French and Italian Governments regarding the cession of the SUDETEN lands to the Reich. Then when the tiny republic rejected the Russian offer (as he knew they would), all he had to do was to proclaim to the League, and the world, that he had done his best.

The MUNICH crisis came and went. The rearmament of the nations proceeded on feverishly. In RUSSIA they made a film " Professor Mamluke " the fiercest anti-Nazi affair, condemning the anti-Jewish policy of Hitler. GERMANY did not retort, either in the press, or in her Chancellery.

When PRAGUE fell in March 1939, Stalin denounced FRANCE and BRITAIN as having rejected the collective security scheme devised by the League of Nations and implied that they had deliberately affected neutrality in the hope of watching GERMANY and RUSSIA come to blows and subsequently benefiting by their exhaustion. The Russo-German Pact itself was but a corollary—but how Stalin must have smiled when all the western nations BRITAIN, FRANCE, GERMANY, the BALTIC STATES and TURKEY stood obsequiously at his door for his decision—all these people who had sneered at Bolshevism and treated RUSSIA at GENEVA as an outcast from the comity of nations! At any rate here, perhaps, was the situation for which Lenin had waited in vain—the bourgeois powers hopelessly embroiled, and the U. S. S. R., safe, aloof, and ready!

For further light on the RUSSIAN riddle, we must now turn to the Far East. Apart from ancient enmities, trade in CHINA was already a bone of contention between RUSSIA and JAPAN by 1923. But RUSSIA was then torn by civil war. Millions of Kulaks refused to submit to the disintegration of their farms, and the farmers refused to cultivate and collect the harvest on behalf of the State. The Georgian dictator showed them no mercy. They perished in thousands. Their farms were

broken up and their inplements confiscated. The economic revolution must go on. So it was that by 1931 RUSSIA had captured many markets. When JAPAN struck at MUKDEN on September 18th, 1931, and occupied MANCHUKUO, Stalin did not take any direct action. "Boundary disputes" between RUSSIA and JAPAN had their uses. He now offered a non-aggression pact to JAPAN, but at the same time offered another pact to Chiang-Kai-Shek, his idea being to exasperate JAPAN by his overtures to CHINA. He knew that surrounded by the Soongs, Chiang-Kai-Shek could not be expected to be pro-communistic, but he also saw that if JAPAN and CHINA went to war, CHINA must turn to the Soviet for help and thus give RUSSIA the chance to drive out JAPAN and other capitalistic interests from CHINA.

RUSSIA's indifference over JAPAN's occupation of MANCHURIA made JAPAN bolder She thought that Stalin was afraid, and saw herself as the leader of a new order in ASIA. The first thing, to be dealt with, therefore, was Bolshevism. JAPAN therefore entered into the Anti-Commintern pact, with GERMANS and ITAY and shortly afterwards invaded CHINA without a declaration of war.

Except for pushing on with trade and armaments in SINKIANG, Stålin here followed the traditional Russian policy, viz., when checked in the East to turn to the West, and vice versa. And truth to tell, EUROPE was at that time a far more interesting problem. Of the two sets of rival nations, all of whom had spurned RUSSIA at GENEVA, Stalin could see that one side at least—and those, the countries farthest away from his borders—were unready for war. With nothing to fear from BRITAIN or FRANCE, therefore he became frankly militaristic. He dismissed the Anglophile Litvinoff from the Foreign Ministry; and, while greatly strengthening both his fleet and his army began parleys with the now berserk Germans to see what they would pay for his neutrality or support. His tool in these affairs was Molotov, and his opportunities, the intransigence of the Nazis in DANZIG, and, at the time of the notorious MUNICH Conference, the somewhat obsequious mission from BRITAIN, who chose that curious moment to send a rather remote diplomat as envoy, rather than appoint an important personage with all the powers of an ambassador.

The end of this phase of policy was not far off. DANZIG was on the point of declaring its allegiance to the Third Reich; POLAND furious at the machinations of GERMANY, was noisily invoking the help of

BRITAIN and FRANCE, turning down at the same time an offer of aid from RUSSIA, who, for the moment, was advertising a united democratic Peace Front of democracies.

For the time being master of the situation, Stalin waited until British and French military missions were actually in his own capital and then announced the adhesion of RUSSIA to a Non-aggression Pact with GERMANY! It was an astute move. POLAND, about whose safety the Allied Misssions to RUSSIA were so concerned, could be made the excuse, since she had flatly refused Russian aid against the impending German invasion; she would also provide the occasion for the grabbing back of White-RUSSIA and the UKRAINE. Seldom has an opportunist such as Stalin been presented with such an opportunity!

Therefore, while POLAND was laid waste by those twin devils of modern warfare, aeroplanes and tanks, Voroshilov's army occupied half of POLAND, halting when it met the German hordes at BREST LIVOTSK. Without firing a shot Stalin had got back WHITE-RUSSIA and UKRAINE, regardless of the fact that Hitler particularly wanted them too, and that in spite of Hitler's amazed protest delivered by Von Ribbentrop.

The partition of POLAND was not the end of RUSSIA's opportunities in Stalin's eyes. There was BESSARABIA, and there was the Baltic question, where RUSSIA had already acquired naval bases and air bases in LATVIA, ESTONIA and LITHUANIA.

There was also FINLAND, that Republic wrested from RUSSIA after the Four Years War, a renegade from the Soviet fold, a recidiviest to a Bourgeoisie Government under General Mannerheim; and overruling all these considerations was the more justifiable one of the need for a secure outlet--not to say control--in the Baltic, because the White Sea and the Arctic Sea are so often snow bound, and the Black Sea is guarded by the Bosphorus.

Stalin actually lost more than he gained by his Finnish campaign. The military reputation of his new nation was exploded, and the world still wonders whether armies or machines count more than the martial spirit of a race, and whether RUSSIA really has that spirit. But in other spheres, Stalin's plans prosper. He has converted ESTONIA, LATVIA, and LITHUANIA into Protectorates, and he has acquired

naval and air bases along the Baltic coast. How far these will be useful remains to be seen, for the Great Belt, Little Belt and Sound, form the entrance to the Baltic, and they are dominated by GERMANY, peace time or war time, and it looks as if one day RUSSIA must fight GERMANY for that land-locked sea. Just as the Bosphorus corks up the Black Sea, the Great Belt and the other sounds cork up the Baltic. The White and the Arctic Seas are corked up by nature; VLADIVOSTOCK faces a sea which is not less Arctic that it is at PETSAMO or LENINGRAD. It may be therefore that Russian acquisitions from FINLAND and the Baltic Protectorates have only brought her into more certain conflict with German interests.

Let us look East again. In the race for the Bessarabian oil-fields in RUMANIA, RUSSIA has again out-stripped GERMANY, and in this policy Stalin has only followed the Nazi theory of consolidating foreign 'nationals'. Bessarabians are Russians nationally and historically, and Stalin had prepared for their annexation long ago. From the town of STALINGRAD on the Volga, to TIRASPOL on the Rumanian frontier, Stalin built a mighty road, and the recent annexation of BESSARABIA has brought RUSSIA to the mouth of the Danube, the trade artery of central and south-eastern EUROPE. He must have been aware of Hitler's oil needs, and jealousy or fear of further German annexations, have driven him to obstruct, if not frustrate, his new ally.

Meanwhile along the Oxus river, RUSSIA has built several air bases. Is Stalin casting longing eyes on INDIA, INDIA of teeming millions and strange civilization built in the congenial atmospere of Pax Britannica? "The Britishers are odd people" thinks Stalin. "The teeming millions of INDIA who ought to be contentedly chanting their Vedas or their Quran are allowed to propound the latest principles of nationalist politics and economics, and fight for them too! The British loyalty to constitutionalism, and their strict application of the rule of law, has brought about such discontent, that surely we have only to apply the *Iskra*, the spark! There is no Chiang-Kai-Shek in INDIA to discriminate between Soviet arms and Soviet principles. INDIA can be flattered into acceptance of our philosophy because she is a nation of philosophers. From INDIA to the MALAY PENINSULA is a single hop. Let the democracies and the Nazis fight each other in EUROPE. We have full work to do in ASIA."

Something thus may Stalin's reverie run, but it has been interrupted by several incidents in the war zone. The mighty German dictator unexpectedly goes to meet Marshal Petain somewhere in FRANCE, Laval in PARIS and Mussolini in FLORENCE. Even the intrepid Doctor of lying propaganda finds here a piece of news too odd for him to glorify. Hitler ought to sit in his eyrie at BERCHTESGADEN, and summon kings and ministers, not go to meet them. But Molotov obliges him by visiting him in BERLIN and hastens out with a vivid impression of what havoc the British heavy bombers do accurately and devastatingly. King Boris is summoned. The Bulgarian King returns home, only to despatch the disappointing message that BULGARIA will maintain strict neutrality. Little GREECE is driving out the mighty Italian hordes from the mountains of GREECE into ALBANIA and from there into the sea. The British fleet, which destroyed three Italian warships under the last November moon, has swept unmolested up the Gulf of Otranto, and shelled BARI and DURAZZO. Graziani's North African armies has been cut off by the Wavell wedge at BUQBUQ and the English armies are west of BARDIA.

I venture to speculate once again on Stalin's reactions to all this. It is true, he may think, that GREAT BRITAIN will exhaust herself in wearing down the totalitarians. But what is it that these Britishers are doing constitutionally in GREAT BRITAIN? What I have shed so much blood for in RUSSIA, what I have striven after for these last seventeen years with my five year plans, and what I aim at by World Revolution—this eradication of class barriers, this redistribution of national wealth to all classes, this appropriation of all national wealth and work for national cause, is just what Ernest Bevin tells the British workers. But what our commissars elicit by whips, this British Minister obtains by smiles!

Stalin, from having been a riddle to others, must now be deeply perplexed himself. He is now massing his armies along the Southern frontier, near GERMANY.

Has he given up the idea of World Revolution? Does he see himself at war with Hitler, instead of BRITAIN or does he still cast longing eyes still on INDIA?

That far, at the moment, RUSSIA remains a riddle; her dictator of course maintains the pose of a riddle within a riddle. But it may be that a little later we shall be able to echo Lenin's prophetic remark, "I am not sure that he (Stalin) knows how to use power?"

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

26—12—40 to 1—1--41.

HIS MAJESTY'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE.

The following extracts are from His Majesty the King Emperor's Broadcast to the Empire and the world on Christmas day:—

"In days of peace the feast of Christmas is a time when we all gather together in our homes, young and old, to enjoy happy festivity and the good-will which the Christmas message brings. It is above all a children's day and I am sure we shall do our best to make it a happy one for them wherever they may be.

"The War brings among other sorrows, the sadness of separation. There are many men in the forces away from their homes to-day, because they must stand ready and alert to resist the invader should he dare to come or because they are guarding the dark seas or pursuing the beaten foe in the Libyan desert. Many family circles are broken. Children from English homes are to-day in CANADA, AUSTRALIA, NEWZEALAND, and SOUTH AFRICA.

"To all of them, at home and abroad who are separated from their fathers and mothers, to their kind friends and hosts and to all who love them and to parents who will be lonely without them, from all in our dear island I wish every happiness that Christmas can bring.

"May the New Year carry us towards victory and to happier Christmas days.

"To the older people there and throughout the world I would say: In the last Great War the flower of our youth were destroyed and the rest of the people saw but little of the battle. This time we are all in the front line and in the danger together, and I know that the older among us are proud that it should be so.

"Remember this, if war brings its separations it brings new unity also, a unity which comes from common perils and common sufferings willingly shared.

"Out of all this suffering there is growing a harmony which we must carry forward into the days to come, when we have endured to the end and victory is ours.

"Then when Christmas days are happy again and good will has come back to the world we must hold fast to the spirit which binds us all together now.

"We must go on thinking less about ourselves and more for one another, for so and so only can we hope to make the world a better place and life a worthier thing. And now we wish you all a happy Christmas and a happier New Year.

"We may look forward to the New Year with sober confidence. We have surmounted a grave crisis. We do not underrate the dangers and difficulties which confront us still but we take courage and comfort from the successes which our fighting men and their Allies have won at heavy odds by land, air, and sea.

"The future will be hard but our feet are planted on the path of victory and with the help of God we shall make our way to justice and peace."

CHRISTMAS AND THE AIR-RAIDS.

Though there was no official declaration of a truce, yet the spirit of Christmas was such that the belligerents suspended their aerial activities for the day so that GERMANY, ITALY, BRITAIN, and GERMANY'S occupied countries enjoyed the Christmas untroubled by bombs, fires or machine-guns. Perhaps the weather, low clouds and fog, and particularly the nights, impenetrably black with no moon, were also responsible, and poor visibility may have enforced a bombing truce. There was no official undertaking however. Mr. Churchill told the House of Commons that "any proposal for Christmas tide cessation of hostilities would be rejected by the Government". Again though German sources in the U. S. A. gave out that the German Air Force had been instructed not to bomb on Christmas day, Nazi words were not to be trusted. As an American commentator put it, 'a criminal or a gangster cannot be trusted' inasmuch as a 'man or nation cannot become devoutly religious in one day while he or it commits crimes on the remaining 364 days.' Therefore throughout Christmas-tide BRITAIN stood guard against attack, even while the unofficial truce was on, redoubling her vigilance on the Channel Coast, especially as perfect 'invasion' weather prevailed at the time in the Straits of Dover and the Germans might be tempted to try a lightning thrust through a blanket of mist across a calm sea.

The solitary exception to the aerial truce was the Italian air attack on CORFU on Christmas day, killing 21 and wounding 31. Contrasted with this was the humanity of the R.A.F. which played the role of Father Christmas by dropping hundreds of gifts for the children of the town, together with a message stating

that the presents were a token of British admiration of Greek courage. Hardly however had the British planes gone than Italian assassins flew over again, sowing death and destruction among the children.

The Italian defenders of BARDIA had a lean Christmas hiding in their concrete trenches.

The Greeks celebrated Christmas 'with their heads held high'. Theirs was a Christmas of 'Deliverance' from an enemy who hypocritically called himself Christian but yet was 'striking at Christ with the same dagger with which he was striking GREECE, for he who breaks Christ's law of peace stabs Christ himself'.

On Christmas Day BETHLEHEM had its first black-out in history. The Church of The Nativity, the oldest Christian Church, was 'wrapped in protective gloom'. The traditional bonfire in the fields where the shepherds still keep their watch had to be put out earlier than usual lest Italian raiders should be attracted to the spot. Behind curtained doors and darkened windows the cave in which Christ was born was illuminated. In JERUSALEM Christmas saw a new cosmopolis of armed men from the British Empire, Free FRANCE, POLAND and CZECOSLOVOKIA.

AIR-RAIDS AFTER CHRISTMAS.

On the 26th the Royal Air Force resumed its attacks on enemy territories in spite of forbidding weather. Daylight and nocturnal attacks have been carried out on the Invasion Ports and other centres such as BORDEUX, BRITTANY, LE-TREPORT, LORIENT, CHERBOURG, FOOKE WULF (at the rate of 100 bombs a minute), FRANKFURT, NAPLES, BARDIA, TOBRUK, KASSALA and VALOÑA.

After 80 hours of quiet a German *blitz* developed over LONDON on the 27th. On Sunday the 29th, as the Air Ministry put it, 'a deliberate attempt to set fire to the City' was made by dropping a large number of incendiary bombs which started several fires within one square mile of area containing no military objectives whatsoever. Among the buildings which suffered damage are the Guildhall, St Bride's Church—a fine example of Wren's work, St. Vedast, Dr. Samual Johnson's Memorial House where the famous Dictionary was compiled, Christ Church, St Bride's, where Samual Pepys was baptised and Samual Richardson was buried, and St. Mary's. There was no attack on Monday, a circumstance to be ascribed to the bad weather.

AMERICA.

President Roosevelt's so-called 'fire-side talk' on Dec. 29 was in fact a clarion call for action to his American public and the most powerful indictment ever made against Nazism. If BRITAIN went down, he said, the Axis

would control EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA, AUSTRALASIA and the high seas, and AMERICA would live at the point of a gun, loaded with high explosive, economic as well as military. Nations which, in spite of non-aggression pacts had been overthrown into a modern form of slavery knew what it meant to live at the point of a Nazi gun. South AMERICA in Nazi hands would constitute a jumping-off place for GERMAN attacks on any of the Republics in the Western Hemisphere, whose resources offered the most tempting loot of all the world. Experience had shown that none could appease the Nazis. No man can tame a tiger into a kitten by stroking it. Nations can have peace with the Nazis only at the price of surrender. 'Nonsense' exclaimed President Roosevelt, as he warmed to his denunciations, 'Is it negotiated peace if a gang of outlaws surrounds your community and on threat of extermination makes you pay tribute to save your skins?' Such peace would only be an armistice leading to a gigantic armaments race and the most devastating trade war in history. The Nazis' New Order was the oldest and worst tyranny in which there was no liberty, no religion, no hope. In the military sense BRITAIN and her Empire were to-day the spear-head of resistance to world-conquest. They were putting up a fight which would live for ever in the story of human history. Democracy's fight against world conquest must be more greatly aided by sending every ounce and every ton of munitions and supplies that could possibly be spared and by re-arming in self-defence as if AMERICA were at war. There would be no bottle-necks in their determination to aid BRITAIN and no combination of Dictators would weaken this resolve. 'I believe', he added 'the Axis are not going to win and I base that belief on the latest information. We have no excuse for defeatism. As President of the UNITED STATES I call for that national effort.'

In pointing out the nature of the Nazi peril President Roosevelt further stated 'If the Nazis won, could IRELAND hold out? Would Irish freedom be permitted as an amazing pet exception in an un-free world, or the AZORES? We think of HAWAII as the out-post of our defence in the Pacific; yet the AZORES are closer to our shores than HAWAII'.

In addition to the 60 freighters which BRITAIN is buying, and the armaments to be lent on the basis of lease, President Roosevelt is planning to construct new merchantmen to offset the British losses.

According to the latest poll conducted by the Gallup Institude of Public Opinion 60 per cent of the Americans to-day are in favour of helping BRITAIN, even at the risk of entering the War.

ITALY.

In spite of the official denial that there are no differences between Mussolini and the King of ITALY, (evidently as an answer to Mr. Churchill's recent

indictment of Mussolini) there is no doubt that ITALY is on the top of a valcano whose rumblings are becoming more and more audible. The discontent finds expression, in clandestine posters saying 'Basta' (enough). A skull and cross-bones with the letter 'M' are painted on the walls, 'M' signifying both 'death' and 'Mussolini'. German troop movements on a large scale especially in TRIESTE and at the BRENNER Pass have been reported. The daily transport of aeroplane parts, tanks, torpedoes and submarines to ITALY is rumoured. German planes are said to have reached BRINDISI and BARI. Fear of the Gestapo has entered the heart of the people. Bad economic conditions have brought about dismay. Several articles of food such as coffee and sugar have become scarce. Passenger services have been reduced to a minimum and very few private cars are seen in the streets. The recent military disasters, the lack of news from the soldiers and the bewilderment of the people as to why they entered the war at all, have caused a general depression of spirits. Rumours are abroad of the transfer of power from Mussolini to Badoglio who has royal support and of negotiations between BRITAIN and ITALY for a separate peace.

Meanwhile Mr. Churchill's impeachment of Mussolini as the one man solely responsible for the present woes of ITALY seems to have made a great impression—as an American paper has put it Mussolini's position is unenviable now, for Mr. Churchill has displayed all the art which made the Roman citizens turn on Brutus whom they adored and cry, 'burn, fire and slay'. At any rate 'this latter day synthetic Caesar may end up' as the paper has stated, 'about as popular with the multitude as did Brutus, after Antony got rough with him.'

In future, distribution of food in ITALY will be controlled, the needs of the army being met first and the death penalty will be inflicted hereafter for sabotage and hoarding.

FRANCE.

According to a Free French message Petain has sent a 'firm refusal' to Hitler's demand for the French Fleet and the message was carried on Christmas Day by Admiral Darlan, the man on whom the Germans had relied next to Laval. The reason for the refusal is stated to be that the cession of Mediterranean bases or the fleet was not included in the armistice terms, that FRANCE agreed to the 'New Order' only in the economic field, and that the armistice guaranteed otherwise the integrity of the French Fleet for safeguarding French Imperial communications. If any compulsion was exercised the French Fleet would be ordered to sail to NORTH AFRICA at short notice, where, further, General Weygand had an army of 400,000 men.

Darlan has since returned from PARIS but the situation is still very obscure and strict secrecy is maintained. It is also rumoured that Petain has not yet summarily rejected the German demand. It is also likely that the present talks are a smoke-screen to merely obscure further plotting.

GERMANY AND THE OCCUPIED COUNTRIES.

An example of the conversion of 'butter into guns' is furnished by the way in which potatoes, beets, sugar and wheat are used in the manufacture of petrol. One ton of alcohol can be obtained, for instance, from ten tons of potato or twelve tons of beet-root. For this purpose all the surplus of the German produce and large forced imports from the conquered countries are being used to feed the war machine.

Following the calling of men to the army the problem of labour shortage has risen and is met by the forced labour of youths, pensioners, women and prisoners of war. In September 200,000 prisoners of war and 400,000 foreign workers were so impressed.

In NORWAY civilians are unable to obtain needed supplies of bacon, meat and eggs. The Nazis are confiscating about 10,000 pounds of meat daily in OSLO.

Owing to Rumanian industry being now confined compulsorily to agriculture, industrial workers in the cities and factories are losing their employment.

BRITAIN

National War Bonds at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent will be issued from January 2, 1941 to meet the financial needs of the war.

THAILAND.

Frontier incidents continue on the FRENCH-INDO-CHINA Frontier. Luang Bipul Souggram, Prime Minister of THAILAND stated in a press interview that BRITAIN'S sympathies were with his country as was shown in the amicable settlement of a border dispute between THAILAND and BURMA. He added that while he was prepared to shake hands with FRANCE if two small bits of territory were retroceded to rectify the border, he would study carefully JAPAN'S New Order to see if it did not affect the integrity and independence of his country.

WAR IN AFRICA.

Libya.

By way of preparation for the final attack enemy concentrations to the east and south of BARDIA are being cleaned up.

Abyssinia.

All along the border the British patrols are harassing the KASSALA sector now held by the enemy and are playing a hide and seek game, interspersed with larger operations. Inside ABYSSINIA the tribes are growing rebellious, and are constantly being reinforced from the ranks of the deserters.

THE ITALO-GREEK WAR.

The Greek's have captured LINT on the road to ELBAZAN and 3 other villages, after storming mountains 5,000 feet high.

R. A. F. Raids over GERMANY, GERMAN occupied EUROPE, ITALY, ITALIAN AFRICA and ALBANIA.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. & Greek aircraft losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
23—12—40. (Monday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN occupied EUROPE.		
	HITLER'S invasion ports in the CHANNEL.	...	Battered.
	Industrial targets in the RHINELAND including LUDWIGSHAFEN.	1 plane.	Heavily damaged.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	CASTEL BENITO ...	...	...
	Aerodrome, the harbour power stations and other military objects at TRIPOLI.	No loss.	Numerous fires and explosions started.
	Offensive patrols over the BARDIA—TOBRUK area.	...	4 planes.
	The pumping station and the aerodrome at ASSAB.	...	...
	Reconnaissance over GALLABAT area.	...	...
24—12--40. (Tuesday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN occupied EUROPE.		
	No air raids over Enemy territories to-day.	...	...

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. & Greek aircraft losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
24—12—40. (Tuesday)—*cont.*			
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Aerodromes at GAZALA ...	...	Heavily damaged.
	Reconnaissance over the WESTERN DESERT.	...	1 plane.
	Ammunition dumps at JUNNA ...	...	Exploded.
	Buildings at BURYE ...	...	Set on fire.
	Store houses and dumps at another place.	No loss.	...
	ALBANIA.		
	The harbour and the aerodrome at VALONA.	...	Many Italian planes on the ground destroyed.
	ITALY.		
	NAPLES ...	...	Leaflets dropped.
25—12—40. (Wednesday).			
	No R. A. F. raid either over EUROPE or over the Middle East.	...	...
	Presents and gifts dropped to children at CORFU.	...	...
26—12—40. (Thursday).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN occupied EUROPE.		
	DAY:—		
	Several aerodromes in BRITTANY, Shipping at LE TREPORT.	...	Heavily damaged; 1 plane.
	The submarine base at LORIENT ...	...	...
	NIGHT:—		
	An aerodrome at BORDEAUX ...	...	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Aerial fight over the WESTERN DESERT.	...	2 planes shot down 4 others damaged.
	ALBANIA.		
	Warehouses and railways at KRIONERO (near VALONA).	...	...

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. & Greek aircraft losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
27—12—40. (Friday).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	Ships in Egersund harbour and Haugesund.	...	1 ship set ablaze.
NIGHT :—			
	Submarine base at Lorient ...	...	...
	Barracks, power station and stores at Lorient.	...	Big fires started.
	The FOCKE-WULF aerodrome at Bordeaux.	...	...
	The invasion bases from Calais to Boulogne.	...	Whole coast line ablaze.
	Ship building yards at St. Nazaire and St. Inglebert.	...	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Aerial fight near Gedaref ...	...	1 plane.
	Italian positions near Kassala ...	...	Heavy casualties.
	Military stores and transport yards at Assab.	...	...
	Offensive patrols over Enemy territories.	...	...
	ALBANIA.		
	Italian troops in Albania ...	...	...
28—12—40. (Saturday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN occupied EUROPE.		
	Oil targets at Rotterdam and Antwerp.	...	Set on fire.
	The invasion ports of Boulogne and Cherbourg	...	Heavily damaged.
	Docks, ships and factories at Lorient.	...	A large fire followed a big explosion.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Aerial fight over the Western Desert.	No loss.	2 planes shot down and 5 others damaged.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. & Greek aircraft losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
28—12—40.	**(Saturday)**—*cont.*		
	ALBANIA.		
	Ships and the harbour at VALONA ...	...	...
29—12—40.	**(Sunday).**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN occupied EUROPE.		
	Military objectives in FRANKFURT area.	...	...
	Sub-marine base at LORIENT ...	...	...
	ITALY.		
	NAPLES ...	...	Buildings damaged ;
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Landing grounds at TMIMI, DERNA and GAZALA.	...	Fires started.
	ALBANIA.		
	Troops, a transport, a motor transport Park, Military stores, two cargo-boats and a cruiser at VALONA.	...	Very heavy damage.

Enemy Raids over Britain, British Territories and Greece.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. & Greek aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
24—12—40.	**(Tuesday).**		
	BRITAIN.		
	NIGHT :—		
	A town in LANCASHIRE ...	..	Little damage.
	Two trains in EAST ENGLAND ...	...	1 soldier died.
	BRITISH AFRICA.		
	SOLLUM ...	...	Slight damage and a few casualties.
25—12—40.	**(Wednesday).**		
	BRITAIN.		
	DAY :—		
	ORKNEYS and the SCOTTISH coast ... (German planes merely flew).	1 plane.	No damage at all.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. & Greek aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
25—12—40. (Wednesday.)—*cont.*			
	BRITAIN—*cont.*		
NIGHT :—			
	Complete inactivity	...	...
	GREECE.		
	CORFU	...	21 killed and 31 wounded.
26—12—40. (Thursday).			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	Isle of SHEPPEY ...	...	Little damage.
NIGHT :—			
	No enemy air activity ...	...	...
27—12—40. (Friday.).			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	A Town in South-east ENGLAND ...	...	No damage and no casualties.
NIGHT :—			
	LONDON and a few other parts of ENGLAND.	...	Big fires started and a few casualties.
28—12—40. (Saturday).			
	BRITAIN.		
NIGHT :—			
	A town in South-west ENGLAND	...	Slight damage and a few casualties.
	GREECE.		
	CORFU	...	...
29—12—40. (Sunday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	A place in North-west ENGLAND, one town on the SUFFOLK coast and **2 towns** in the KENT coast.	...	Slight damage; few casualties and a few killed.
NIGHT :—			
	LONDON; A South-west town ...	...	No damage.
30—12—40. (Monday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	No enemy air activity owing to adverse weather.	...	...

SIDE LIGHTS.

The Eternal Wish. People are very shy of wishing each other a "Happy New Year" this year. If one does it, one is corrected. "Happy? Happier, perhaps, but......!" Well, I don't know. Happiness, like most good things in this life is only a comparative term, and if 1941 brings, as seems most likely, a few boons to mankind of the magnitude of, say, the obliteration of one Mussolini, or bewildered doubt among the Nazi caucus, or much closer co-operation both sentimental and material between the two greatest English-speaking countries, or a world-wide rejection of the doctrine of Might being Right, or the collapse of non-cooperation in INDIA, well, why shouldn't one wish one's friends a "Happy New Year"? — and that is what we do to all our readers.

Christmas. There was no air-raiding over the great Christian Festival, either in BRITAIN or on the Continent. For a couple of days at least, there was peace. Yet both sides deny that there was any pre-arrangement. Mr. Winston Churchill rejected the notion of a Christmas truce; and there is no confirmation of the unlikely story that Hitler said he'd hold off, if the English would. Well, perhaps the spirit of kindness and pity, the sense of some Universal Benevolence, the consciousness of remorse for man's present shortcomings, have not yet been smothered in this welter of beastliness. I'll swear this is as good an explanation as any other.

The Real Stuff. I have just heard from a lady in LONDON, who is an A. R. P. worker—in charge of the telephones at a large Fire Station. Writing towards the end of October (and the *blitzkreig*) her first-hand account may be of interest. In cold print, it sounds pretty harrowing, but it is interesting to know that just after she wrote, she was going out to do her Christmas shopping for friends and relatives abroad, and further that we have had cheery cards, letters and presents from most of people she mentions in this extract and the rest of her letter. Her peroration is equally worth noting. It says:

> "You can get used to anything, I have come to the conclusion. I am very fit—possibly because I spend most of my leave day making up for lost sleep. I have actually put on 4 or 5 pounds!"

Blitzkreig at first Hand. "All this coincided, for me, with the worst air raids we have experienced so far, and believe me that is saying something. The 14th and 15th of this month will not be

forgotten by anybody who was in LONDON for them. It was the same in every district. H——will remember our famous Maida Vale bomb of the last war; well it was like that continually from 7 p. m until 7 a. m. As a rule it is like that in waves through the night, with perhaps an hour which is fairly quiet in between the waves, but those nights it was continuous all night. It did not seem possible the buildings you were in could escape. As for incendiary bombs, they fell like rain all night long. The 14th I was at Stanhope Gardens, "sleeping" on my usual two chairs in the lounge. I heard some drop outside (knowing by now the sound very well) and immediately shot up to my room at the top with a torch (it was about 2 a. m.) to see that one hadn't dropped through the roof into it, setting it on fire. Finding it was all right, I looked out of the window, and saw some flaming in the road, making of course a terrific beacon for the raiders. As I ran downstairs I heard Mr. B——(who is an Air Raid Warden, but at home and off duty that night) calling out for more sand, as there were dozens of them round the corner. I carried a bucket of sand out to some people who were tackling the one I had seen from the window, but it was practically out by then, luckily. I heard next day they had one in the basement pantry next door, and eight or nine on the mews at the back. They were all tackled in time and rendered harmless. It is those that fall on roofs and are not noticed immediately that cause these bad fires.

Next day. "My next night at the fire station, we had 96 fire calls just in the Kensington Fire ground, which actually boiled down into 61 different fires. Next time I arrived back at 43 on leave, it looked as if a child has been building sand castles in the road, they had put out so many I. B.s ! There was an unexploded bomb at the corner of Cromwell Road and Gloucester Road, all traffic and pedestrians being diverted. It went off a day or so later and messed up the corner house rather. Poor old Cromwell Mansions has been getting a very thin time. I don't know why but they have been making a dead set for Earl's Court. When I went to see the D——s the other day there wasn't a window left at that end of Cromwell Road, except, funnily enough those at the front of the Mansions. At the back, the nursery, my room and Daddy's room were broken, but the next door block were far worse. The poor D——s had the most dreadful experience at the beginning of the *blitzkreig*, as they were walking past St. Philip's Church just as the bomb fell which demolished the house opposite. They were thrown down and covered with debris, cut and bruised. It was a miracle they weren't killed, but the shock was pretty awful, and every night since, as they said, they have had bombs and incendiaries all round them. I know this is true as we get the calls, Earl's Court Road, Cromwell Road, Kenway Road, Childs Place, the garages at the back by Golly's and the other one. Every morning they have to clear debris out of the area. They said they were now just waiting

for one on the flats themselves; and I am bothered if that very night we didn't get a call for them, and others since! Luckily only incendiaries which were soon put out, but one of them was on the top flat in our block. The Stuart Hotel has caught it twice.

Whereas Oxford Street has had a packet, but still carries on (except for John Lewis's main building which had a colossal fire and was burnt out—we could see the flames from here) Kensington High Street has been lucky except for things which stand back and don't show, for instance, part of Kensington Palace, Holland House, the pro-cathedral, and the funny little cinema where you could see old films. But on Saturday night there was one bomb on Kensington Court, and one on an army lorry in Kens. Gardens, and the result was that there wasn't a window left between us and the Gardens. You never saw such a mess in your life, they were shovelling up glass into dust carts for two days, horrible noises which set your teeth on edge. Poor Gib. refugees, they haven't got a pane of glass in the Ken.Palace Hotel, one of their billets, I should think they are frozen. Their other hotel, the Ken. Palace Mans. had a fire on the upper part from an I. B., so I should think they wish they were back in Gib.!"

I have no doubt this brave lady could do with a little rest. Perhaps one of those people who blether about non-violence, or who are comfortably enjoying a term of 'A' class imprisonment for obstructing war-effort, would act as locum tenens for her!

Slipping Cogs. It is silly to be over-optimistic over isolated successes in the field or the air or at sea. They are cheering, but they are only local fragments of strategy or tactics Big strategy, however, also gives us reason to look into the new year with considerable confidence, for the great German war-programme and the Axis machine seem to be out of time and out of gear. Mussolini has been slipping swiftly backwards for quite an appreciable time now, yet Hitler thrusts out no supporting hand, the patent reason being that he has decided that FRANCE might be of more use to him than his former partner. There is another possible reason for his not coming to the aid of ITALY, and that is simply that he *cannot*. British command of the Mediterranean, growing cohesion among Balkan neutrals, and the unmistakable trend of American opinion towards the smashing of Nazism of every complexion at any cost, are forcing him to cut his losses, let his partner go hang, and concentrate on cajoling or forcing VICHY to intervene in the Mediterranean and create a diversion for BRITAIN while the Germans hasten to stake all on some swift wild gamble for victory in the West. Compare this *faut de mieux* programme with the prophecies of Goebbel's NUREMBURG sequence of (September) "Days", Party Day in 1938, Peace Day in 1939, and Victory Day in 1940!

Vichy in the toils. The writhings of poor Petain in the cruel grasp of his conqueror, are not edifying, but at least he continues to struggle. He does not merely dangle—a limp appendage like Darlan, or an obsequious marionette like Laval or Flandin. But he is now saddled with another incubus, another of Ribbentrop's 5th Column discoveries, in the person of M.le Comte Fernand de Brinon. Raised from the unsavoury gutter of political and international intrigue, this nobleman (?) has become VICHY's ambassador in PARIS, and with Herr Abetz, the German ambassador, they make a very pretty pair there! The Count's history is illuminating. He was Bonnet's secret agent and Ribbentrop's chief spy in FRANCE, the leader of the Comite France-Allemagne, at whose banquet in 1938 Bonnet and Ribbentrop celebrated the Franco-German entente; and this in spite of having married a Jewish wife, and earning his salary from a Jewish bank which financed the blatantly pro-Nazi "L' Information." In this capacity he performed the functions of a permanent secret agent who travelled, "on business," between Bonnet and Ribbentrop, ever since MUNICH. When war broke out the Count went to ground, but once had the effrontery to appear in the lobbies of the Senate, whence he was promptly evicted by an usher! Now, with GERMANY's victory, he, and a lot of other scum, have risen to the surface, and thrive on their country's defeat and humiliation. This is doubtless what the German broadcasts mean by "Franco-German co-operation!"

The other side of the picture. Fortunately it is not only the Allies who know that this "co-operation" means total surrender. There are definite signs that the French as a nation now know it too. Petain is universally and affectionately respected in FRANCE. The Lavals, Flandins and de Brinons are hated. The R.A.F. victories in September and October, the failure of 'invasion', the steady growth of British sea and land power in the Mediterranean, and the hardships of the German occupation (with its wholesale stripping of raw materials and food-stuffs until the French bitterly name the Hun troops, 'les mangetouts', the eat-alls!) are forcing Hitler to 'go easy.' He also has to 'go easy' with the French Colonial Empire. Weygand is in N. AFRICA and is known to be even more opposed than Petain to a 'peace' which would hand over these lands to the enemy, and a false step here might well provoke an explosion at home which would destroy the Vichy Government as an instrument of Nazi policy. Hence, for instance, the cooling down of Spanish enthusiasm for the Axis, and Hitler's withdrawal of ITALY's territorial claims against FRANCE.

A NOTABLE PERORATION.

[*The closing words of a speech by Hon. Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan in the Legislative Assembly at Delhi on November 18, 1940.*]

THIS is a solemn moment in the history of mankind, and I owe it to myself and to my fellow beings to draw attention to another and more fundamental aspect. I am sure that on this there will be no difference between Hon. Members opposite and myself.

In this twentieth century mankind has been more abundantly blessed with the means of alleviating human suffering and promoting human happiness than ever before, and yet we see before our very eyes the spectacle wherein all the means which should have been devoted towards achieving those ends, are being employed for the destruction of mankind.

How has that come about?

My own conviction is that we find ourselves in this plight because we have dethroned God from our hearts and have filled our hearts with false gods, with pride and arrogance, with greed and avarice, with evil thoughts and selfish designs. Foul deeds have been done in the sight of God till the mills of God have started grinding. How shall mankind extricate itself from this maelstrom of unbridled violence and limitless destruction and turn back into the paths of peace and brotherhood? There is only one way of doing it and that is to cleanse our hearts of all evil thoughts which have accumulated therein, to cast out the false gods who have made their homes there and to restore our hearts to such purity that they shall again be fitted to become the thrones of the One true God. That cannot be accomplished by armaments or any other material means.

By means of armaments, we can repel the aggressor and save mankind from utter physical ruin and destruction which also involve its moral and spiritual destruction. But the repelling of the aggressor by itself will not save mankind; it will no doubt save the vessel, but will not by itself purify it. Once the aggressor has been subdued, the aggressor and his victims must all be led back to the greater safety and security which is the security of the soul based upon the higher moral virtues. We can accomplish that only by submitting ourselves humbly to the will of God. Man has been created in the image of God and there is a divine purpose for which he was created. I am afraid to-day neither the image nor the purpose is discernible, but surely that purpose will be fulfilled. We must first strive to ascertain that purpose and

then bend all our energies towards fulfilling it. That purpose may only be discovered by prayer, humble, sincere and earnest and, believe me, God hears prayer to-day as much as He heard it in days of old. He also speaks to-day as He spoke in days of yore, if we can but open our ears and our hearts to His message. He has promised: "Those who strive after me I shall surely guide along the paths that lead to me." "So, whenever guidance comes to you from me, then who so follows my guidance shall neither fear nor grieve." "And if my servants should ask thee (O Prophet) about Me, I am near: I respond to the cry of him who cries to me. So, let them open their hearts to me and believe in me, that they may be rightly guided." "I and my messengers will surely prevail."

Sir, I have done. If Hon. Members opposite agree with me, so much the better for them and for India. If they differ with me, I shall only say to them: "If you do good it is for your own selves; and if you do ill it is also for your own selves." I am responsible for my conduct and you are responsible for yours. And my last word is that all praise is due to Allah, the sustainer of the Universes.

WILL GERMANY BE FORCED TO INVADE ITALY?

DR. BENES ON LIKELY COURSE OF WAR.

NAZI COLLAPSE BY SPRING OF 1942?

CZECH PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO INDIA.

By

T. A. RAMAN.

"A German invasion of Italy is a possibility and a distinctly practical possibility."

That is the view Dr. Edouard Benes, expressed to me in an interview.

"I've been very agreeably surprised indeed by the news from Greece," said Dr. Benes. "From the first I recognised that the invasion was a blunder on Mussolini's part, but couldn't feel certain that it was as serious a mistake as it has proved to be.

"All dictators are bound to take some such false step at some time or the other; that is inevitable. Now it seems possible that Mussolini has made that fatal blunder which may be the undoing of his régime.

"We've always, however, to bear in mind the possibility of a German invasion of Italy. Hitler might be compelled to safeguard his position by swooping down on Italy when the Fascist regime is visibly tottering."

To my question as to how long he thought the war would last, Dr. Benes answered decisively: "The German collapse will come probably in spring, 1942. The allied war effort will rise to its crescendo next summer and American support will begin to tell decisively.

ROT WILL SET IN.

The combination of the blockade and heavier air offensives through 1941 will steadily exhaust German resources and sap their morale which has been keyed up to such a pitch for so long. France and the other occupied countries will increasingly resist. A rot will definitely set in and by the spring of 1942 we may expect the collapse."

The world knows and honours Dr. Benes as an apostle of democracy and so I asked him whether he would care now to restate his faith in Government by the people.

"Yes", he replied emphatically. "More than ever before I'm convinced

of the necessity of democracy for all progress, and certain of its final victory. This war, more than others, has proved that democracy is the key to all the precious values of life.

"It was for this reason, too, that the assault of Nazism was directed first against the democratic idea because it would be only over the body of demoracy that Hitler could pass to secure his ultimate objects.

"It is indeed true that democracy hasn't yet reached its fullest stature. The economic crises of recent years have revealed that its capacity to solve economic problems was inadequate. The political crisis which culminated in war demonstrated how difficult it is to solve problems of authority and leadership in democracies.

"Hitler's propaganda was able to exploit these shortcomings. It is beyond doubt that after the war these deficiencies must be corrected.

"But on the whole I believe with Masaryk that the best cure for the ills of democracy is more democracy and truer democracy".

I suggested that France failed politically before she was beaten militarily.

"The collapse of France", Benes replied, "is still too recent for general conclusions. Democracy as such was not, in my opinion, to blame for it, but rather certain typical deficiencies of the system as it was conceived by the French — particularly its inability to organise itself in a crisis and to submit to voluntary discipline.

"We see now from the example of Britain that this needn't be the case in every democracy".

NEW ORDER, A STUNT.

I asked Benes whether he'd care to comment on Axis propaganda concerning the "New Order".

"Not much comment is needed," he replied, "on what is nothing more than a stunt intended to mask Germany's real aims. If Hitler had his way he'd create an order based on the slavish subordination of Europe to the interests of the German ruling caste.

"No European or world order could be founded on enslavement of some and domination by others. An organized Europe can be based only on democratic equality of lands and peoples and—which is equally important—democratic equality of the people within each national whole.

"For these reasons I say the purely military defeat of Hitler and Mussolini won't suffice for complete victory in this war.

"In Germany and Italy must be created conditions which would effectively prevent that rule by personalities, parties or castes on which the power of dictators is built. And the German and Italian people must be made to realise that they've been defeated by moral as well as military superiority."

CZECH RESISTANCE.

Speaking of the position in Czechoslovakia to-day and her contribution

to the common cause, the President said he had not the slightest doubt that the Czechoslovak people would hold out to the end in their resistance to German oppression, despite all the tortures they suffer.

"Our reports from home," he said, "confirm our faith. I'm more than satisfied with the moral endurance of our people in their terrible ordeals. I'm proud of them and ask nothing more than that we, their spokesmen abroad, should prove ourselves worthy of their heroism.

"Czechoslovak resistance at home is one vital contribution which Czechoslovakia makes to the struggle. It is worth no less than 4,000,000 Germans, soldiers, policemen and officials, who would otherwise have taken part in the war on other fronts.

"Passive resistance is going on all the time against German war industry and against work of every character which helps Germany's military ends.

"Frequent executions for acts of passive resistance prove how acutely the Germans feel our indirect aid to the Allies. As to direct support, we've a small but good army which, after the collapse of France, transferred its activity to Great Britain and the Middle East.

"Our airmen have taken part very successfully in the war, first in France and later in Great Britain. The status of our army was determined by the recent agreement between Britain and the Czechoslovakian Provisiona- Government which guarantees inde pendence to our army within the framework of the Allied organisation.

GREETING TO INDIA.

"It is now my turn to ask you some questions," said Benes. He made several inquires about the general situation in India and her war effort. "For years", he said, "I've followed with interest and sympathy developments in India and from my heart I wish that through further steady advances and in friendly understanding with Great Britain she will attain the fulfilment of her national aspirations.

"I shall be grateful if you will convey my greetings to your great country".

THE "INCREDIBLE GREEK ARMY"

SOLDIERS WHO THRIVE ON WAR

COMPARISON WITH FINNS.

(*The* ***Daily Telegraph*** *publishes the following cable from somewhere in Albania.*)

AFTER ten days of incessant travel, usually by car, sometimes on horseback and occasionally on foot through a few miles of slithering mud, we have visited every war sector from Corfu and the southern sea coast all the way to the shores of Lake Okrida, nearly 250 miles to the north.

Edmund Stevens of the *Christian Science Monitor* and I are the only correspondents who have yet traversed this wild, fantastically mountainous, Albanian theatre of war from one end to the other.

We've seen Greek troops under all kinds of conditions and have seen them constantly in motion for ever pressing forward. This is why it now seems possible to discuss what kind of force this incredible Greek Army really is.

First of all the Greek soldiers' appearance is entirely deceptive. They are little fellows, not averaging much more than five feet five inches in height, and most of them look as if their uniform were one or two sizes too big for them.

At a first glance you would think they were a haphazard lot and to hear their animated chatter one might suspect them almost incapable of a well-organised effort.

But you would soon discover that these non-descript looking Greek troops are extraordinarily efficient. Beneath a surface of seemingly chaotic gestures they get things done and recognise no obstacles.

The Finnish soldiers are much more impressive to look at, but these tough, wiry little Greeks possess the same kind of astonishing fortitudel endurance and will to win. I never expected to see another army which could be favourably compared, man for man, in these respects with Finland's warriors, but I found one here in Greece.

I've never seen soldiers who actually thrive on war and its hardships as much as these diminutive, effervescent Greeks do. They are the most cheerful fighting troops you can possibly imagine. Wherever we've gone we've met these muddy, dirty, smiling men.

After a night of forced marches over killing mountain roads it is a common thing for Greek soldiers to shout and cheer as you pass them. Plodding slowly along through rain on muleback the Greeks will yell "Macaronis" and gesticulate eloquently to indicate what they will do to the Italians when they catch up with them. Their gestures are masterpieces of mimicry and always accompanied by diabolical but good-natured grins.

Surely this Greek army to-day is just about the highest spirited army in the world. Regardless of mud, rain and snow, regardless of the hundreds of gorges, precipices and snow-covered peaks which must be conquered day after day, they march on.

They're iron-muscled war-hearted men, these humble, unassuming sons of Greece, and they win your hearts with both their courage and spontaneity. You understand why their officers speak of them with quiet pride.

The other day we passed a long column of troops plodding through the bitter cold and rain. An officer told us they had started a marching at six o'clock the previous night and had continued amid rain and finally snow until five in the morning. In those eleven hours these men covered 30 miles.

AMERICA'S CHANGE-OVER TO WAR PRODUCTION.

NEED FOR GREATER EFFORT.

CONTINUANCE OF AID TO BRITAIN.

QUESTION OF FINANCE NO OBSTACLE.

*(Cable by the New York Correspondent of the **Times**).*

The United States is now at a stage which every other country has known when it has suddenly been forced to rearm on a great scale. It is that of being required to convert to the manufacture of war supplies facilities ordinarily used almost entirely for quite different purposes, and to add to these in haste huge new facilities.

Inevitably this abrupt change in the direction and character of its industries is encountering some difficulties and has provoked some sharp differences of opinion about what it is necessary to do and how it should be done. Happily, however, neither difficulties nor differences have proved to be really formidable. For all that, industry has still many complaints to make

against government policies. It has been effectively cooperating with the administration and the latter in turn has been exhibiting often a sweet reasonableness of which few business men would ever have thought it capable. So great progress has been made, both with national defence work and with the no less important task of producing war supplies for Britain.

Great, and even amazing, as the effort has been, it has not yet however been great enough, though perhaps it might have been if the Germans had not lately concentrated their energies on attempts to destroy British production and shipping. So now the most pressing problem in America is how to arouse in a country which, formally at least, is not at war, the consciousness that it is in effect at war and so is under a compelling necessity of turning out weapons and every other kind of military supply to the greatest extent possible.

Fortunately this problen is being solved and by the very people least anxious to supply the answer to it—the Germans. By the savage violence and wantonness of their attacks on English provincial towns the Nazis have done more in a fortnight to reveal to the Amercian people the true dimensions of the totalitarian threat to the world than months of explanation and argument could have done here. Americans wish, no less now than they have always done, to avoid becoming engaged in war, but no fear that they may become involved because of the aid they are giving to Britain has any chance whatever of altering their present course. Whether because they believe, as some say, that America's one alternative to going to war herself is to see that Britain is supplied with everything she needs from this country, or whether it is in mere disdain of the threat to their own safety, they are plainly determined to produce ever more and more the things Britain requires.

As for the question as to how, if the war is long continued, Britain will be able to continue to pay for her purchases in this country, there is no need to seek an immediate answer. It may be safely left to the Government at Washington. One thing is certain, that regardless of what arrangement may ultimately be arrived at, Britain will have no cause to worry about the continuance of supplies from here.

Examples of Misleading Statements in Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East for the period December 10—23, 1940.

A.—BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH.

OFFENSIVE OFFENDS THEM.

At 5-30 p. m. on December 10—more than 24 hours after the launching of the great British offensive in the Western Desert—all that the Berlin radio could trust itself to broadcast about this region was an Italian announcement that Marshal Graziani's motor-road from the Libyan frontier to Sidi Barrani was now complete.

"This asphalted highway" boomed Berlin, "assures the Italian troops that their supplies will continue to arrive, and that their further operations will be greatly facilitated." Those supplies have by now fallen into British hands, while the Italians' "further operations"—*i.e.*, their precipitate retreat to the Libyan border—have been anything but facilitated by the persistent shelling and bombing of this same "asphalted highway" by the Royal Navy and the R. A. F.

Two hours later, Berlin felt strong enough to remark that "four British planes were shot down in North Africa".

In maintaining so discreet a silence about early British successes against Graziani's legions, Berlin was only following the lead of Rome. In a day or two, however, both capitals were telling the world that, while British losses were "considerable", those of the Italians must be considered". "quite considerable". Rome broke the news of Sidi Barrani's fall by broadcasting a statement that fierce fighting was going on west of that post, and followed this up with references to "fighting in the Cyrenaica area"—thereby admitting that the British were over the frontier.

THE NAVY IS THERE.

Here are the Rome radio's "official figures" of the losses inflicted by the Italians on the British Navy from Mussolini's entry into the war (June 9) down to December 10 :—

		Damaged.	Sunk.
Capital ships	...	7	...
Cruisers	...	29	4
Torpedo boats	...	11	13
Submarines	...	3	20
Aircraft-carriers	...	6	...

In the Mediterranean, Red and Aegean Seas—the only areas where the Italian fleet has been able to operate at all—no British capital ships or aircraft-carriers have been either sunk or damaged; one cruiser has been sunk and three damaged; and one British submarine has been lost.

Rome's figures for Italian naval losses to date are disarmingly modest—three capital ships damaged, as well as one cruiser and 10 submarines sunk. Actually, Mussolini has had five of his capital ships damaged and at least 29 of his submarines destroyed.

PRIDE COMES DURING A FALL.

"Events which are taking place in the Western Desert", continues Rome gaily, "are sources of pride, and satisfaction to the Italian nation." Italy takes pride, apparently, in the fact that, despite superior numbers, her North African army has retreated nearly 100 miles and re-crossed the Libyan border, that more than 30,000 troops have surrendered, that three senior Italian generals and two divisional commanders are in captivity at Cairo and that in the first four days of operations; the Italian air force lost 41 machines compared with the R. A. F.'s loss of four.

"The Roman of today", adds the Fascist wireless (December 16) "is marching in the footsteps of ancient Rome". (See Gibbons' *Decline and Fall*).

MIDAS AND THE SOUR GRAPES.

As was to be expected, Lord Haw-Haw and his commentating colleagues of the Berlin raido have been vieing with one another in their responsive "Hails" to Hitler's arms-factory speech of last week. Particular emphasis has been laid on the Fuehrer's declaration that he was fighting British gold with German labour. "Germany's capacity for labour is our gold and our capital", bellowed Adolf. "With this gold I can defeat any power in the world".

Since he despises gold so heartily, one can only assume that it is simply his natural instincts for smash-and-grab which lead the Nazi gangster to steal as much of it as he can from any nation on which he gets his itching fingers.

On July 11, for instance, the Germans decreed that all gold, foreign exchange and securities in occupied France should be put at their disposal. The world will remember too German fury at discovering that the gold reserves of such countries as Poland and Norway had been transferred to safety before the Nazi robbers arrived on the scene.

THE LION HAS EYES.

The Nazis are annoyed with the Air Ministry for publishing photographs of damage caused for the naval bases at Kiel by R. A. F. bombs. Their radio

claims (December 15) that they are (i) unconvincing, (ii) cuttings from the film *The Lion has Wings*, (iii) confirmation of the German reports that British raids have caused no serious damage.

Oliver Stewart B. B. C. Air Correspondent, had something to say about these photographs on December 13 :–" To look at them through a stereoscope is a revelation of the effects that our bombs secured ". Ships in the harbour at the time of the raid included the 26,000 ton battle cruiser *Scharnhorst*, the 10,000 ton pocket-battleship *Lutzon*, a 6,000 ton *Kóéln* class cruiser, an aircraft-carrier building and numerous destroyers and submarines.

" The photographs ", says Mr. Stewart, " show the damage done to these German ships and they also show that direct hits were secured on the power station and the torpedo and gun store......They afford proof of the great accuracy of the Royal Air Force and Fleet Air Arm bombing ".

Photographs of the battered Italian fleet at Taranto were dropped by the R. A. F. when they raided Turin (December 4). The Italian people can judge for themselves how convincing they were.

WELCOME FOR ONE.

The true state of the blockade position as between Britain and Germany could hardly be better illustrated than by the pride and jubilation of the Berlin radio (December 12) at the safe arrival in a German harbour of—*one German ship* (*Heligoland*.)

It is news if one of the thousands of British ships that sail the seven seas meets with disaster. In Germany it is news if a single ship gets home.

HAW-HAW ON NAVIGATION.

Nothing arouses Lord Haw-Haw to greater fury than the British refusal to crack up under indiscriminate and murderous bombardment from the air. On December 17, in the course of a vicious personal attack on Lord Cranbourne for delivering a Christmas-tide address in the Church of St. Martins-in-the-Fields (which itself has suffered from Hun bombing), Haw-Haw professes himself unable to understand why the British people, instead of talking about peace, stupidly prepare themselves to endure even greater trials.

Says Haw-Haw : " A ship's company has good justification for standing by an injured vessel when there is reason to suppose that it will not go down; but if the pumps prove useless and the water rises unchecked, if the captain can hold out no reasonable hope of saving the ship, it is an act of lunacy not to take to the boats."

Since Haw-Haw is obviously an expert in the technique of abandoning ships, perhaps he will tell a puzzled world just why the crews of German vessels caught by the enemy invariably scuttle their craft and take to the boats—often before any damage had been done to the ship itself? Can it be that the Germans (unlike the British) have no confidence in "the captain"—either of the ship, or of the ship of State?

Dr. GOEBBELS LOSES HIS MEMORY.

The Berlin radio is very angry with the *New York Times* because it "hopes its readers are going to believe that Germany lost 80,000 men in an attempt by the British forces to set German boats on fire." This "fantastic report" as Berlin calls it, doubtless refers to the decisive smashing of Hitler's September invasion plans by the R. A. F. in the middle of that month, when many thousands of picked Nazi troops perished during the bombing of the North Sea and Channel invasion bases. "The editorial staff of the *New York Times,*" bleats the Goebbels gramophone, "should not overlook the fact that if the British forces had scored this success, the British propaganda, which is prone to over-statements, would have been only too pleased to draft an official report. It would have been invaluable as a tonic to British morale."

What the editorial staff of the Berlin wireless has evidently overlooked is that the British Government—so far from shewing itstelf "prone to over-statement"—waited for close on a month before endorsing the story of the German defeat during the week of September 14/15.

The first reports of what had happened at the Nazi invasion ports during that critical week-end came from neutral sources, and the British authorities devoted several weeks to checking up on the story before they themselves issued a statement. But Berlin is right in suggesting that the official report would be a tonic to the British people; it was.

WEARING THEM DOWN.

The Italian troops in North Africa, says the Rome radio (Dec. 19), are "wearing down" their British opponents. Nearly 40,000 of them are doing their "wearing down" in prison camps on the Nile Delta, while another 20,000 besieged in Bardia must, for all their heroism and tenacity, be feeling just a little worn down themselves; the remainber of Marshal Graziani's forces have so far been wary enough to avoid contact with General Wavell's troops. Nevertheless, the Rome radio naively announces: "It appears that Italy is now reaping the benefit of her advance to Sidi Barrani some time ago". The only tangible advantage which the Fascists reaped from that advance was the £ 60,000 highway built by Graziani's engineers, the "Way of Victory" along which he has retreated into Libya.

FROM " ATTIC FIRES" TO "DECREASE OF PRODUCTION".

The Nazi radio still keeps up the pretence that R. A. F. raids on Germany damage only " private houses " and " non-military institutions ", though it is worth nothing that the Germans are now giving up their references to " attic fires " in favour of " upper-story blazes ". Mentioning one of the current heavy British attacks on the great industrial works at Mannheim, Berlin says that " among other buildings, a palace and a hospital were hit." Some clue to the identity of those " other buildings " is given in a later sentence, which says: " Decrease of production which occured in two industrial works is insignificant ". That Goebbels' high-powered liars should admit any decrease of production at all is evidence of the extreme weight of this particular attack on Mannheim—which took place on December 16 and lasted eight hours.

Further evidence of the " decreased production " which followed earlier R.A.F. excursions over Germany came from the Nazi-controlled Dntch radio, which stated at the end of October that no less than 90,000 Dutch building workers had been taken to Germany. More recently the *Deutsche Bergwerkzeitung* revealed that the transfer to Germany of entire Dutch contracting firms, with their own staff and machinery, was being planned.

NIGHTMARE FEEDING.

Commenting on the recent British ban on the importation of bananas—considered by the Government to be a non-essential food—the German radio says (December 19) that " prior to the war the consumption of bananas in Great Britain was approximately 14 tons per head per year."

This astonishing allegation implies that the average Briton has been eating no less than 100 lbs. of bananas (i. e., 50 seers) every day of his life: if this were true, not only would the British be a race of super-men, but Britain's shipping problem would now be automatically solved—since the ban on this astronomical import of bananas would save her Mercantile Marine nearly one million Trans-Atlantic voyages annually.

FIRST AID FROM SWEDEN.

Berlin waxes very jubilant (December 23) over an alleged statement by Lt., Col. Gunnard Johannsen, a Swedish " aeronautical expert," who has just told Stockholm newspapermen that he was unable to discover a single quay, crane or dock in Hamburg which had been damaged by British bombs " From the tower of St. Michael's Church," adds Berlin, " he saw that the warehouses of Hamburg were intact."

The gallant Colonel's testimony might have been more impressive had he visited the warehouses themselves—or what was left of them—instead of climbing the tower of St. Michael's which stands in the heart of the historic Old Town, an area which the R. A. F. (unlike the *Luftwaffe*) would naturally be careful to avoid. Hamburg's 4,095 acres of deep-water docks and warehouses stand at a considerable distance from the fruit and vegetable stalls in the midst of which St. Michael's tower rears its head, and even a Swedish aeronautical expert would be hard put to it to see any portion of the city's main industrial areas from that vantage-point.

B.—BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES.

WITHOUT COMMENT.

"Italy's Libyan troops are only waiting for Marshal Graziani's orders to teach a new lesson to the British"—*Italian broadcast in Arabic on December 10 when 6 thousand Italians including a General had been captured and another General killed.*

"Italy has always desired to found a big empire......Now at last she is succeeding in founding a lasting Empire"—*Italian broadcast in Arabic, December 12.*

"There is no hope of a British victory. They are being beaten on every side"—*Italian broadcast in Hindustani on December 13, when Sidi Barrani had been taken and twenty thousand Italians, including 3 Generals, captured.*

MANY INVENTIONS.

Not content with inventing "secret weapons", the Nazis have now started inventing—men. Their latest invention is "Mr. Babu Lal". And since one invention leads to another they have also invented a new office in the Congress Party—that of Vice President. Mr. Babu Lal, we are told, is the Vice-President of the Congress and he says "that India is participating in the

war against the wishes of the people". Modesty further makes the Nazis attribute these inventions to an Americaan paper which itself *may* again be the invention of the Nazi brain.

It is significant that this item was broadcast in Arabic (December 16) and not in Hindustani. This is a favourite Axis trick. On November 18 they broadcast, in Arabic only, the story of an imaginary riot in Sindh and on October 13 in Hindustani only the story of imaginary anti-British demonstrations in Egypt. On a previous occasion they reported in Arabic the story of an imaginary clash in Bombay between Indian and British soldiers, but said nothing about it in Hindustani.

SWEDEN CONDEMNS "NAZI ORDER."

The Nazis threaten the Danish people with exclusion from the "New Order" if they show "any inclination towards Britain" and put this threat in the mouth of an unnamed Danish paper (December 18). These attempts to boost the "New Order" are as pathetic as they are persistent. Those neutral countries which are not afraid of Nazi bullying have already made up their minds about the system of German oppression which the Nazis euphemistically call the "New Order." Speaking on December 18 in Sweden, the Foreign Minister, M. Unden, said that the "New Order" and "division of living spaces" envisaged in the Axis Pact have no attraction for Sweden and other small countries.

This new order, he said, meant that small nations would be placed in an indicated space and would lose their independence. Even the industries of small States would be controlled and directed to suit the great powers. A durable peace could not be made, said M. Unden, by a partition of the world along the lines which made small States pauper inmates of the living space of some great power. This candid expression of opiuion is all the more remarkable in view of the fact that Sweden is within arms reach of the Nazi bully.

1917 AND NOW.

The Germans approvingly quote an American naval expert (Dec. 20) as saying that the German U-Boats have become as big a menace to Britain as

they were in 1917. "It should be borne in mind," they add, "that the situation wns very critical for Britain in that year."

Comparisons with the situation in 1917 should hardly be encouraging to the Nazis for they cannot have forgotten who won the war in 1918 in spite of the U-Boat campaign of 1917.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai War Information Bureau.

LECTURE XXV.

1941—

January	4, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
	5, Sunday ...	Muslim Association, Pudukkottai.	5.00 p. m.
		Tiruvappur ...	5.00 p. m.
	6, Monday ...	College (B) Tamil ...	10.25 a. m.
		Rani's School ...	10.25 a. m.
		Vegupatti ...	5.30 p. m.
	7, Tuesday ...	College (A) English ...	10.25 a. m.
		Poovarasakudi ...	5.30 p. m.
		Karaiyur ...	5.30 p. m.
	8, Wednesday.	Nachandupatti ...	5.30 p. m.
	10, Friday ...	C. S. M. School ...	10.00 a. m.
		Tirumayyam ...	5.30 p. m.
		Kilanilai ...	5.00 p. m.

LECTURE XXVI.

January	11, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
	16, Thursday ...	College (A) English ...	10.25 a. m.
		Rani's School ...	10.25 a. m.
		Chery School ...	5.30 p. m.
		Teachers' Association, Pudukkottai.	5.30 p. m.
		Karambakkudi ...	5.30 p. m.
		Odayalippatti ...	5.30 p. m.
		Annavasal ...	5.30 p. m.
		Vendampatti ...	5.30 p. m.
	17, Friday ...	C. S. M. School ...	10.00 a. m.
		Kulipirai ...	5.30 p. m.
		Arimalam ...	5.00 p. m.
		Koppanapatti ...	5.30 p. m.
		Kudumiamalai ...	5.30 p. m.

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